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HOUSE RESOLUTION 173
By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Cliff Davis, former
Sevierville Mayor and Alderman.

WHEREAS, It was with deep regret that the members of the Tennessee General Assembly learned of the death of Cliff Davis, former beloved Sevierville Mayor and Alderman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was born on a farm in Knob Creek and moved to Sevierville to study at Murphy College; and

WHEREAS, He was a star athlete, lettering in all sports, and with his brother Lynn, led Murphy to the state championship in 1926; and

WHEREAS, After working in Knoxville, Mr. Davis returned to Sevierville to become a partner in an automobile dealership; he became the sole owner of the business in 1938; and

WHEREAS, Through hard work, competent management and a strong emphasis on customer satisfaction the dealership became very successful; he retired in 1972; and

WHEREAS, From 1938 to 1976, Mr. Davis served in the important position of Democratic Party County Campaign Manager; and

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WHEREAS, He served with distinction as Alderman from 1944-1952 and for eight productive years in the 1960s and early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis served admirably as the mayor of Sevierville from 1973-1977; and

WHEREAS, His numerous accomplishments while in office included going to Washington, D. C. to persuade the federal government to address the devastating flooding that plagued Sevierville at that time; this action resulted in the Tennessee Valley Authority rerouting the river, thus alleviating the situation; and

WHEREAS, He also persuaded friends to sell the Runyon Farm, which became a popular city park and oversaw the installation of the swimming pool in the park; and

WHEREAS, Known affectionately as “Mr. Athletics,” Mr. Davis realized the tremendous value of athletic programs for the youth of the community; he even painted the goal posts at Sevier County High School until just recently; and

WHEREAS, He started the fabled Smoky Bowl in the 1950s, an event which became a great opportunity for young athletes to show off their talent; and

WHEREAS, Two adult softball fields at the City Park and the Davis-McCarter Baseball Field at Sevier County High School are appropriately named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, A true epitome of the Volunteer tradition of the “Volunteer State,” Cliff Davis often worked behind the scenes, not seeking recognition for his work; and

WHEREAS, He was a very active member of the Sevierville Lions Club and Woodman of the World for more than forty years, served expertly as a valued member of the City Recreation Board, as a director of the Bank of Sevierville (now SunTrust Bank), and was on the board of the Sevier County Electric System; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis was a member of the Sevierville First Baptist Church and a stalwart Christian; and

WHEREAS, Cliff Davis counted among his friends Speaker Jimmy Naifeh; and

WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his supportive wife, Grace Ballard Davis; this loving couple had one daughter, Jane Rader, three grandsons and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Great nephew, Mike McCroskey Davis, praised Cliff Davis, stating “that he embodied integrity, ethics and doing the right thing... I always looked up to him”; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we join with the citizens of Sevierville in mourning the death of Cliff Davis, a man who meant so much to so many; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Cliff Davis, a man who left an exemplary legacy of service to Sevier County and its citizens. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.